

Dec. 4, 1944
Germany

Hi darling,

The last two days have been fatiguing. Yesterday we moved, and that always means a lot of lifting & packing and lugging around. We are setting up in a schoolhouse which is pretty well shelled up, and full of debris, which has created lots of problems in cleaning and black-out. So today we've been busy with hammer & nail and mop & brush - and, at long last, we are ready to go to work. Our leave taking of our old muddy field was marked by portents of no mean caliber. The 6:30 A.M. buzz-bomb came over a little late, about 6:45. It was sputtering and barely moving along. But most spectacular of all, it was entirely afire, a flaming cross, drifting over our heads, and this one, we thought for sure, was ours, as it was gliding in, slowly, oh so exasperatingly slowly! But it over shot us a mile or so, and all we got was a good tent shaking. The 6:45 A.M. buzz-bomb came over on schedule, at the same time, but it was going strong, and got scant attention from us. In the last 4 days there, we had 6 of them drop within a radius of two miles, which is too close for comfort! It is nice to be away from there, and to hear the slam-bang of the artillery instead. I think we will be much safer here.

Then, later in the morning, we were just ready to get in the trucks when a big Lancaster got shot down right over head, the tail falling off in the flaming, screaming dive just before the inferno of the crash, about 1/2 mile away. A shower of parachutes trailed out before the final plunge, and then drifted slowly away in the light wind. We hoped all got out, and were glad that at least they could come down in friendly territory.

Our new quarters, after hours of cleansing activities, are very comfortable. We have a bed-room where 5 of us have our bunk; then, also a kitchen-sitting-room affair, making a nice suite. It was fun to wash dishes, and fix nails & books & things. Reminded me of moving into 368 Longwood.

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I've more to say, but it is getting late and I must to bed. Goodnight, my darling, you, I love.

Always,

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